

# **U.S. Forest Service**

## **Feather Falls Post-Fire Project**

### **Briefing Paper**

**Date:** May 20, 2021

**Topic:** Inventoried Roadless Area review for the Feather Falls Post-Fire Project, Plumas National Forest, Feather River Ranger District

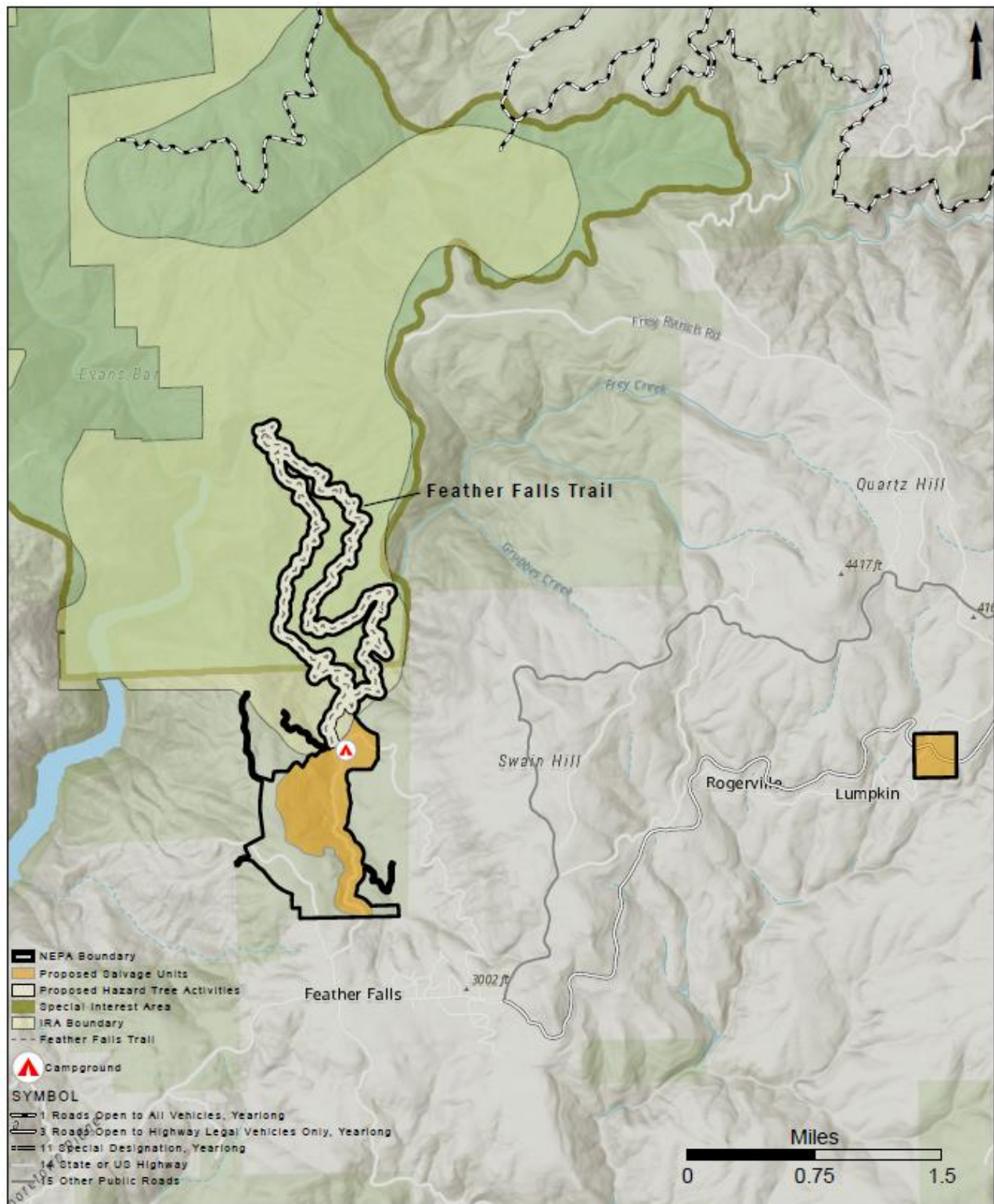
**Issue:** The proposal is to fell hazard trees, remove trees by helicopter to process and deck, and to treat slash on site to protect soils and facilitate decomposition within the Bald Rock Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA).

**Background:** The purpose of the project is to ensure the safety of the public and our employees. In developed recreation areas, hazard tree management is vital to everyone's safety. Trail maintenance includes removing danger trees that threaten safe use. Felling hazard trees at these levels of severe mortality necessitates removing the hazards to reduce the potential for severe wildland fire behavior.

#### **Summary/Key Points:**

- The project area is 717 acres of which 307 acres (43%) lie within the Bald Rock IRA. Project activities include repair or replacement of recreation facilities, hazard tree abatement, salvage, site preparation, reforestation, and tree release. Within the Bald Rock IRA there would only be felling of hazard trees, helicopter yarding, and chipping of slash on 307 acres adjacent to the 7.3 miles of trail.
- Activities will occur on 6.6% of the Bald Rock IRA.
- Fire killed trees along the trail are estimated at 156 trees per acre (TPA), of which approximately 84 TPA are size class 5-10 inches DBH.
- No road or temporary road construction would occur within the IRA.
- Public scoping (March 12, 2021) generated questions, but did not identify any issues or concerns related to activities within the IRA and impacts to roadless character.
- The district conducted Tribal consultation on the Feather Falls Post-Fire project with Mooretown Rancheria on April 29, 2021.
- The district conducted Tribal consultation on the Feather Falls Post-Fire project with Enterprise Rancheria on April 30, 2021.
- The district hosted a collaborative site visit May 13, 2021. Attendees included Mooretown Rancheria, Butte County Supervisor Lucero, Butte County Director of Development Services, California Wilderness Coalition, Sierra Forest Legacy, Friends of Plumas Wilderness, Sierra Pacific Industries, J.W. Bamford Inc., UC Davis, CSU Chico, Butte County Forest Advisory Committee, Butte County Fire Safe Council, and Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council. The visit generated questions, but did not identify any issues or concerns related to activities within the IRA and impacts to roadless character.
- NEPA (Categorical Exclusion) is anticipated to be completed in Summer 2021.
- The Chief of the Forest Service and the Regional Forester have stressed that the safety of the public and our employees is our central concern. Trail maintenance includes removing danger trees that threaten safe use. Region policy in Angwin et al. (2012) establishes that hazard trees are within striking distance of people or property (a target).

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Map Date: May 20, 2023  
 Feather Falls Salvage Project  
 C. Bass

## FEATHER FALLS POST-FIRE PROJECT

